

STORY OF TRENCH RAID BY BOCHES

How an American Force Behaved Under Surprise Attack at Night

"FOUGHT HEROICALLY" French Commander's Comment on the Way Sammees Met Unexpected Foe

By HENRI BAZIN Staff Correspondent Philadelphia Ledger with the American Army in FRANCE, Dec. 15, 1917.

The story of the Boche trench raid is of ancient vintage, and as I said in my cable reporting it, worth perhaps ten words in either a French or English communiqué. And yet to us of the U. S. A. it meant a very great deal in experiences and, as military value goes, repaid the lives it cost and the prisoners lost. Its substance is known, first, through the Boche communiqué, and later, in correspondents' dispatches; that it took place near the Thine-Marne Canal where the latter crosses the front near Luneville; that it occurred at 2:50 a. m. in the morning of November 3, or about the time folks at home had finished evening dinner.

I have felt that, in addition to this information and such color as is given to their stories by American correspondents, a resume based upon reports collected by our staff might be interesting. In, of course, that portion thereof that would not become of military disadvantage to our army. Hence this additional tale.

STORY OF A RAID

At ten the preceding night, that of November 2, the platoon that was raided had relieved another platoon in the sector's salient. It was pitch dark and raining hard. The Sammees had no opportunity to familiarize themselves with the surroundings; in addition, they had never been in a trench before, save those of practice. The officer in charge was a second lieutenant but a short time out of West Point training camp at Fort Riley, Kansas, and attached to his regiment shortly before it went to the front. His own language as to what happened to him follows. It makes this story a personal tale indeed.

"The relief was effected at 10 p. m. and I reported it back from my outpost by runner. I then made a tour of inspection and noted that there had been no error in placing the men as per my instructions. When I returned to my dugout Sergeant's quarters, I was placing the packs of the men on post, inside. I sent a runner to the support platoon for my blanket roll, as the conditions I had wrapped up with it told Sergeant and Sergeant Haliburton (whose name is permissible, as it has been announced from Washington in the list of prisoners); to divide watches, one with me during the day, the other on duty at night. By that time the runner had returned with the wrong blanket roll and consequently I had no light during the night. The hour was just half after midnight. Then I went on a slow tour of the sector trying to see into dark corners. I might familiarize myself. I returned to find Sergeant... who reported he had rockets, but could not tell what kind they were. I had him put a light to my dugout and with a pocket lamp we would inspect them.

SHELLS FELL FAST

"Just as I spoke the first shell fell. I was then almost at the apex of the salient a sharp right angle to the front line. I was consequently hit on each side. The communicators ran back in usual zigzag manner. I went north to get the men into bunker, warned post... and as I spoke was knocked down by shell explosion, but got up. Just as I did I was knocked against the revetment, or trench wall, by the concussion of another shell. I was then knocked completely out by a third shell. When I regained consciousness I sensed hand grenades being thrown and heard shells fall as well, into my hands, but went on the job, adding men to throw balls of wire in the trenches to trip the Boche if possible, placed an automatic rifle in position and grenades on my flank. Just then another shell put me entirely out, and when I woke up I found myself in hospital."

RAID PLANNED LONG BEFORE

It has been definitely determined from a prisoner taken that the raid had been planned in August, long before American troops entered the trench. The raid was always planned ahead, and carefully rehearsed through aerial photographs, and shell-box barrage determined to a nicety by an occasional shell upon a given post for weeks ahead. In October the Boche found a brown helmeted soldier before him instead of the blue of France and shortly after he pulled off his helmet. It was intelligence, the usual thing by all armies on all fronts, the exchange of life for information if the former were necessary.

The officer commanding the raiders was Lieutenant W. W. Worth, former class schoolmaster, one of the many sent from Germany into the reconquered province to spread "Kultur." His force was composed of 210 men, an exceptionally large raiding unit. It was mostly Stoerstruppen, picked men used only in attack. They wore blue and white brassards, the Bavarian colors.

French raiders used a Canadian invention first used in this war with the original advent of Canadian troops, then a surprise, pure and simple, carried out without artillery preparation. At the outset raiders were a small party, faces blackened, creeping across No Man's Land in the dark, slipping into a trench and with knives and bludgeons killing as many as possible, taking a prisoner or more, and sneaking back. Before long artillery preparation preceded, as it now invariably does. In this case it was based about the trench angle of the salient and one could neither get out or in during the forty minutes it lasted. The dugout was the only spot to go. No man who knows anything about this modern war game hesitates to go for a dugout after the first shell breaks near. For every man killed twenty years are necessary to reproduce him. It is estimated that sixty-four Boche seventy-seven and larger caliber guns performed the boxing and that they fired about 7000 shells. It is most unlikely that more than half the raiding force entered the trench. The others very probably massed about the commander just outside the French wire and waited until the minute arranged for lifting the barrage, then blew a way through the wire with the usual jipped high explosive breaking a path and held while their comrades jumped in on the twenty-five Sammees, most of whom were in dugouts.

AMERICANS FOUGHT HEROICALLY

Those encountering the Boche fought the Thine-Marne fight. The report of the French general, in fact, reads: "Attitude of garrison very honorable. Resisting points to the fact that after..."



LIEUT. W. W. WORTH West Chester physician who has been called to service at Camp Greenleaf, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.

Property to the value of more than \$250,000, the personal property of Countess Bernstorff, wife of the former German Ambassador, has been taken over by a Mitchell Palmer, alien property custodian, acting under the alien property act. The property consists of stocks and bonds.

PALMER SEIZES GERMAN STOCKS

Takes Over \$250,000 Property of Bernstorff's Wife FOUND IN NEW YORK \$900,000,000 Probable Total Taken in Custody Under Alien Act

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—Property to the value of more than \$250,000, the personal property of Countess Bernstorff, wife of the former German Ambassador, has been taken over by a Mitchell Palmer, alien property custodian, acting under the alien property act. The property consists of stocks and bonds.

NAVY SEA TRANSPORT PROBLEM IS SOLVED

All Vessels in Service to Be Operated as Single Unit From Washington

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—The overseas transportation problem, so far as it affects the nearly 100 vessels in the transport service of the navy, has been solved. All of these vessels, which include some of the largest afloat, have been placed under the direction of what is to be known as the naval overseas transportation service. Hereafter they will be operated as a single unit and will be directed from Washington.

GERMAN BARONESS FREED

Admitted to Bail—Promises Not to Send Letters Home

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 18.—Baroness Ina Zoller, wife of a German army officer, accused of violation of the espionage act, has been freed on \$2500 bail by Federal Judge Sanford on condition that she refrain during the war from communicating with persons in the military and naval service of the United States, as well as with persons in Germany and Austria. The baroness was left for Chattanooga, Tenn., en route for her home in New York.

Two U. S. Soldiers Captured

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—The Government has learned that Albert De Mella, of New Bedford, Mass., and John Murphy, of Newport, R. I., American sailors taken prisoners at the sinking of the destroyer Jacob Jones, and now held in Germany, have been at the prison camp at Brandenburg since December 29.

German Major General Killed

LONDON, Jan. 18.—A news dispatch to Amsterdam from Germany forwarded to Central News reports that Major General von Auer was killed on January 8.

LITTLE PIG FOR EVERY HOME, WOMAN'S SLOGAN

Long Island Society Leader Heads Campaign to Increase Pork Production

NEW YORK, Jan. 18.—Every home shall have its little pig is the slogan adopted by Mrs. Arthur Scott Burden, a society leader with a country estate near Jericho, L. I., who is the appointed chairman of the pig committee of Nassau County by Deputy Federal Food Administrator Arthur Weeks, Jr.

THREE ENTER BERKS RACE FOR CONGRESS

Spatz Joins in Battle With Croll and Dewalt—Lively Run Expected

READING, Pa., Jan. 18.—Charles B. Spatz, of Boyertown, a newspaperman, who has been a candidate for Congress in several campaigns will be a candidate again this year for the Democratic nomination, he announces. This means a three-cornered fight, with Congressman Dewalt, of Allentown, out for a third term and William M. Croll, of Reading, naval officer at Philadelphia, the declared nominee of the reorganization Democrats of Berks.

SOLDIER DRUGS CAPTOR ON TRAIN AND ESCAPES

Motortruck Driver Who Fails to Return West Caught in Philadelphia

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 18.—On the way to Chester with Corporal Henry Rubenstein as his prisoner, Sergeant Fred Eiling, of Colchester, was dragged just before the train reached Johnstown and came to its senses as the train reached this city. A telegram was sent to Johnstown immediately and Rubenstein was captured.

IRISH CONSCRIPTION BEATEN IN COMMONS

Vote Taken on Man-Power Bill—Asquith Urges Reinforcement of Front

LONDON, Jan. 18. The House of Commons has rejected an amendment to the "man-power" bill which proposed to apply conscription to Ireland.

HISTORIANS ELECTED

H. M. M. Richards Becomes Head of Federation of Societies

HARRISBURG, Jan. 18.—The Pennsylvania State Federation of Historical Societies, composed of representatives of every historical society in the State, held its annual meeting here and elected the following officers:

GAS PRICE UP IN CHESTER

Increase of 20 Per Cent by Philadelphia Suburban Company

YOUTH KILLED BY TRAIN

Pushed From Platform at Eddystone and Falls Under Wheels

CHESTER, Pa., Jan. 18.—Ereast Newton, seventeen years old, died at the Chester Hospital, and after a convalescence of several months, was pushed from a moving train at Eddystone, Newton, who was employed by the Heston Army Company, boarded a train bound to Philadelphia, and in the rush was pushed from the car and fell under the wheels.

LECTURE ON AFTER-WAR EDUCATION

"Education After the War" one of a series of the general topic "Conditions of the World After the War" was given a lecture to be delivered by Dr. John Dewey, professor of philosophy at Columbia University, at the Friends' Select School, Chestnut and Cherry streets, tonight at 8 o'clock.

COMMUNITY STORES

We Serve You Save

2100 Grocers in Philadelphia-Camden and Suburbs have adopted the Community Store

plan to promote real store service and bring greater economies to YOU. You will find one of these stores in your neighborhood—look for the sign.

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Community Stores We Serve You Save

ONE LICENSE IN FULTON

Court Rules Out All Other Applications at McConellsburg

McCONELLSBURG, Pa., Jan. 18.—The license court for Fulton County adjourned after refusing a license to the City Hotel, ex-Sheriff Jefferson Harris, proprietor. The Fulton House and application by Vincent Shaffer, formerly of York, Pa., for a license at the City Hotel, was also refused. This leaves Fulton County with only one license, that of the City Hotel, which expires March 31.

NEW FEBRUARY NUMBERS OF COLUMBIA RECORDS

Vernon Stiles sings the Song that won the Soldiers

When you hear this recording of "Then You'll Remember Me," you will understand why Vernon Stiles won such a great patriotic triumph as official instructor in singing at Camp Devens. A2435—\$1.00

A Record Worthy of Rigoletto's Famous Quartette

As a rainbow soars and disappears amid storm clouds, so contrasting emotions of love and hate mingle in this wonderful recording of the Boston Opera artists. 49259—\$1.50

Oscar Seagle sings "There's a Long, Long Trail"

The song the soldiers are singing everywhere. Writes one from Fran: "We sing it under shell fire as a kind of prayer—you ought to get it; then you will be singing it when I am." A2452—\$1.00

Barrientos in Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro"

When Barrientos sings "Deh, vien non tardar," you will not wonder at poor Figaro's jealousy as he hears this exquisite love song, much too tender and true for any imaginary lover. A wonderful recording of Mozart's most beautiful aria. 48651—\$3.00

The only "Butterfly" record of the only Japanese Prima donna

Madame Miura, the only Japanese in grand opera, now sings exclusively for Columbia. She has chosen for her first "Butterfly" record that most appealing melody, "One Fine Day." 49260—\$1.50

The Paulist Choristers

Father Finn and his Paulist Choristers, who were decorated by the French Academy and concluded a triumphant European tour by appearing before Pope Pius X, now record exclusively for Columbia. Their pure voices make music truly sacred in "Veni Jesu" and "Aldia Hae Dies." A2449—75c

Remember that these are only a few numbers from the splendid Columbia February list that totals over 20 records.

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